

CLAIMS

1. A server for transmitting a data signal having a sequence of data units in a predetermined order over a transmission link the data units being sent in an order determined by their relative importance rather than their predetermined order.
2. A server according to claim 1 in which the data units represent a base layer and at least one enhancement layer.
3. A server according to claim 1 comprising re-ordering means to change the order of the data units.
4. A server according to claim 1 in which the data signal is scalable.
5. A server according to claim 4 in which the signal is scalable in a domain selected from a group consisting of the temporal, the spatial, the spectral and the SNR domains.
6. A server according to claim 1 which comprises an editor for providing the data signal.
7. A server according to claim 1 in which the data signal represents a sequence of pictures to produce a moving image.
8. A server according to claim 7 in which the data signal represents a video sequence.
9. A server according to claim 1 in which the data signal comprises multimedia data.
10. A data transmission system for transmitting a data signal having a sequence of data units in a predetermined order over a transmission link between a data

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source and a data sink the data units being sent in an order determined by their relative importance rather than their predetermined order.

11. A transmission system according to claim 10 in which the data units each
5 comprise a base layer and at least one enhancement layer and when re-
ordered the base layer of a particular data unit has a greater safety time than of
the or each enhancement layer of the particular data unit.
12. A transmission system according to claim 10 in which the source is a server.
- 10 13. A transmission system according to claim 10 in which the source is an editor.
14. A transmission system according to claim 10 in which the sink is a client.
- 15 15. A transmission system according to claim 10 in which the sink is a mobile
terminal.
16. A transmission system according to claim 10 in which the sink is a mobile
telephone.
- 20 17. A transmission system according to claim 10 in which means are provided to
check the progress of transmission and to change the order being used to one
better suited to available bandwidth.
- 25 18. A method of transmitting a data signal having a sequence of data units in a
predetermined order over a transmission link between a data source and a
data sink comprising the step of sending the data units in an order determined
by their relative importance rather than their predetermined order.
- 30 19. A method according to claim 18 in which the data units are returned to their
original sequence once they have been transmitted over the transmission link.

20. A method according to claim 18 in which the progress of transmission is checked and the order being used is changed to one better suited to available bandwidth.

5 ~~21.~~ A computer program product stored on a computer usable medium comprising computer readable program means for causing transmission of a data signal having a sequence of data units in a predetermined order over a transmission link the data units being sent in an order determined by their relative importance rather than their predetermined order.

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22. A computer program product according to claim 21 comprising a server.

23. A computer program product according to claim 21 comprising an editor for providing a scalable data signal.

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24. A computer program product according to claim 22 comprising re-ordering means for providing the layers of the or each data units with different safety times.

20 ~~25.~~ A data signal having a sequence of data units for transmission over a transmission link between a data source and a data sink the data units being in an order determined by their relative importance rather than their predetermined order.

25 ~~26.~~ A method of controlling transmission of a data signal having a sequence of data units in a predetermined order over a transmission link between a data source and a data sink, the method comprising the steps of:
 monitoring the transmission of the data units in order to determine the condition of the transmission link;
 providing a control signal to the data source to change the order of the data
 units in response to the condition of the transmission link not being adequate;

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changing the order in which the data units are transmitted to one better suited to the condition of the transmission link, the order being determined by the relative importance of the data units rather than their predetermined order;
transmitting the data units from the data source to the data sink; and
5 receiving the data units at the data sink and returning the order of the data units which are received by the data sink back into the predetermined order.

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